

40. (New) A method for classifying an unknown sample into a class characterized by a biological status using a digital computer, the method comprising:

a) entering data obtained from a mass spectrum of the unknown sample into a digital computer, wherein the mass spectrum is derived from a surface enhanced laser desorption/ionization process using a substrate comprising an affinity material, wherein the affinity material comprises antibodies; and

b) processing the mass spectrum data using the classification model formed by the method of claim 1 to classify the unknown sample in a class characterized by a biological status.

REMARKS

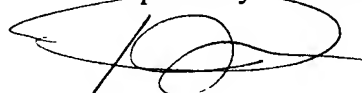
In this Preliminary Amendment, new claims 39 and 40 are added. Support for new claims 39 and 40 can be found throughout the application as originally filed. For example, support can be found at page 15, lines 12-27 of the specification.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, a favorable Action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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